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BOARD OF PAROLE FOR THE PROVINCE OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

ANNUAL REPORT

APRIL 1, 2001 TO MARCH 31, 2002

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MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

I am pleased to present the Annual Report of the Board of Parole for the Province of British Columbia for Fiscal Year 2001-2002.

This fiscal year was an exciting and challenging year for the Board. The Board of Parole for the Province of British Columbia, with every other agency and board, participated in the Administrative Justice Review project. In the end, the Board of Parole was continued as a valuable participant in the criminal justice system and our mandate was confirmed within the framework of government boards and agencies.

This fiscal year, Irene Heese retired as Chair of the Board at the end of her six year appointment.

I am pleased that our Board Members continue to truly reflect the diversity of British Columbia. Candidates are selected for their demonstrated leadership, their decision-making ability and sensitivity to the competing interests inherent in conditional release decision-making.

The Board welcomes victims to attend, not merely as observers, but as integral contributors to the hearing. We are proud to have been the first Board in Canada to afford victims a voice in hearings and further pleased that there is now a growing movement in other Canadian jurisdictions to offer victims a voice in parole hearings.

We continue to be disappointed in the low numbers of victims that choose to participate in hearings after years of allowing victim participation. We remain hopeful that a consistent message and Ministry support will ensure that those victims who wish to attend will obtain the information they require in order to make an informed decision about their participation in the hearing process and then choose to do so.

The Board realizes the important role that all its members play to ensure that the public accepts the value of returning offenders to the community with support and control.

Last, I would like to express appreciation for the support that the Board receives from its justice partners and in particular; the BC Corrections Branch, the National Parole Board, The Ontario Parole Board, the Quebec Parole Board and the Victim Services Branch, BC Ministry of Attorney General.

Tracey Thompson, Vice Chair
BC Board of Parole

BACKGROUND

The Board of Parole for the Province of British Columbia has been a continuously operating Board for over fifty years. Originally constituted to provide release decision-making on the indeterminate portion of definite/indeterminate sentences for young adult offenders, the Board was reconstituted as a full provincial paroling authority in the early 1980's when the definite/indeterminate sentences were abolished.

In late 1996, the Ministry made a decision to review the delivery of parole services in British Columbia. At the same time, a decision was made to re-organize the Corrections Branch. These two events provided an opportunity for an administrative partnership between the Board and the Corrections Branch. This administrative partnership concluded in March 1999. The Board is now administratively independent but continues to work with Corrections Branch to efficiently and effectively review offenders for their return to the community.

The Board of Parole continues to provide a community voice, through the diversity of its part time member appointments, which are for four year non renewable terms and are merit based. Conditional release decision making is independent of interference or reward.

The end of Fiscal Year 2000/2001 marked the end of the Corrections Branch Temporary Absence/Electronic Monitoring Program. The Board of Parole for the Province of British Columbia is now the primary authority for the conditional release of inmates to the community. This model allows staff and inmates to focus on one consistent process for conditional release.

The Board continues to work with Corrections Branch through cross-training and policy development in order to promote the responsible and timely release of offenders to parole. The concept of a single release authority is now the standard in British Columbia and continues to generate interest across Canada and in other jurisdictions.

MISSION STATEMENT

The Board of Parole for the Province of British Columbia, a component of the criminal justice system, is an independent administrative tribunal whose members reflect the diversity of our province and are appointed on the merit of their community involvement and decision making ability.

The Board contributes to the protection of society by deciding if eligible offenders in provincial correctional facilities, who do not pose undue risk, will be permitted to serve their full sentences under supervision in the community with conditions of release set by the Board.

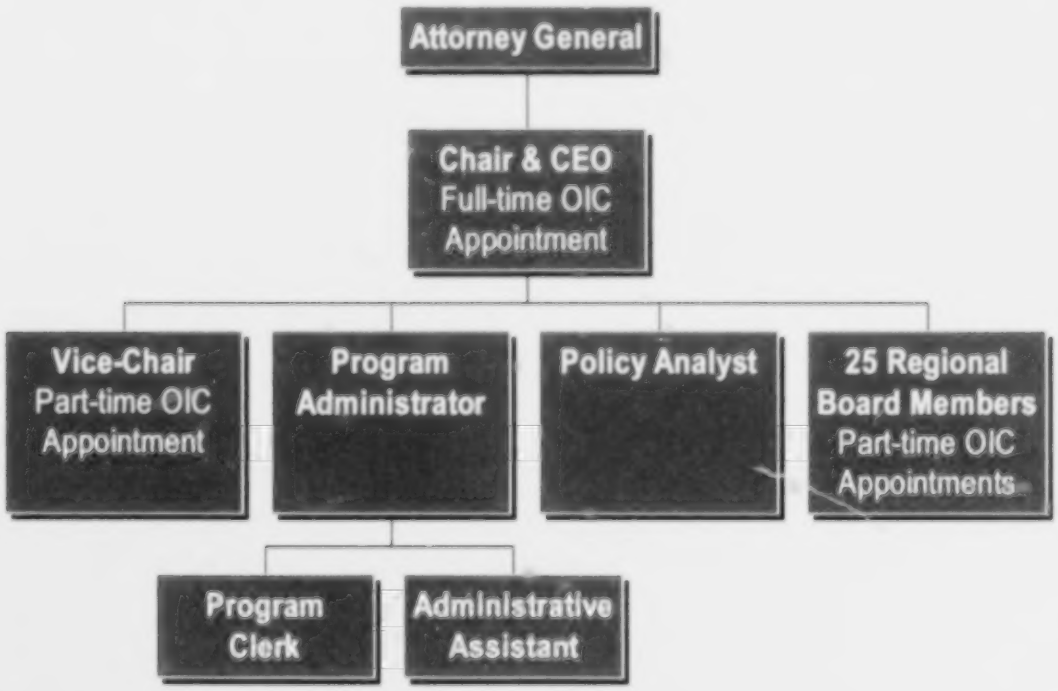
The Board considers information from the justice system, offenders, victims and the community and strives to afford offenders an opportunity to redress individual and social relationships that have been harmed.

ORGANIZATION OF THE BOARD

The BC Board of Parole is an independent administrative tribunal. All members are merit Order in Council appointments and represent British Columbia's commitment to public participation in the justice process. The Board is composed of a full-time Chair, who reports to the Solicitor General, a part-time Vice Chair and twenty five part-time Board Members who serve on an as-needed basis. The Board, through the Chair, strives to maintain gender equity, ethno-cultural balance, geographical representation and a dynamic range of age and experience in order to be responsive to the various communities and stake-holders in British Columbia.

Candidates must undergo an extensive interview to examine their decision-making ability, awareness of the dynamics and needs of offenders and victims, knowledge of the justice system and leadership and accountability to the community. Written assignments are also part of the pre-screening process.

The Board is supported by four administrative staff who conduct the Board's business function and respond to changes in legislation, government program initiatives, the general public, interest groups and offenders.



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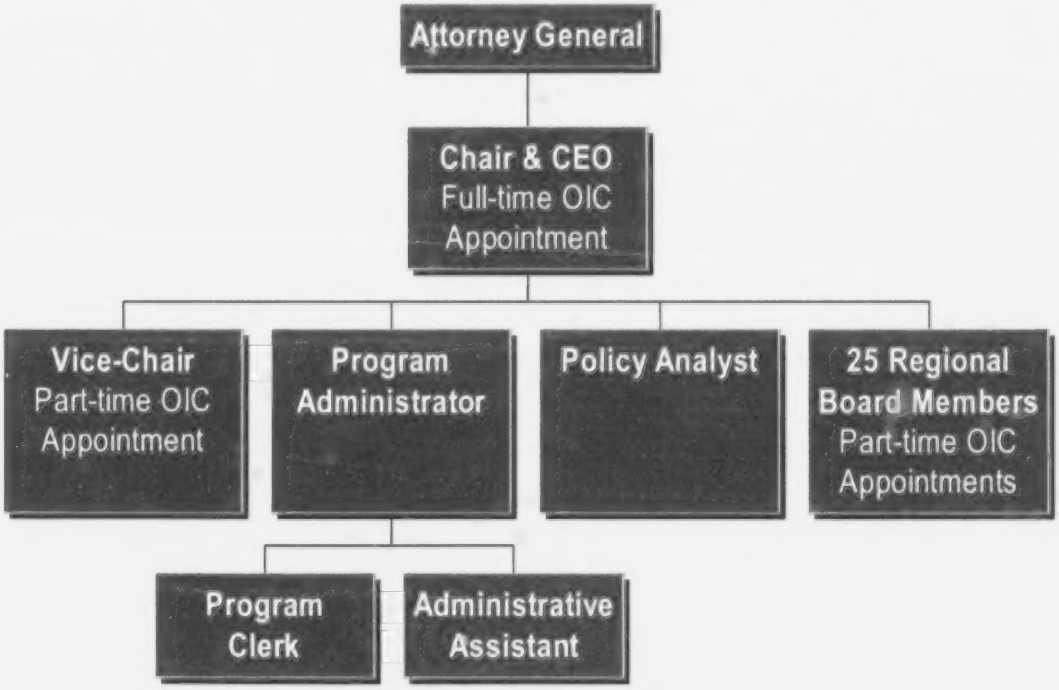

PURPOSE

The British Columbia Board of Parole is an independent tribunal that contributes to public safety by rendering decisions on applications for parole from prisoners in provincial correctional centres. The Board operates within the legal framework of the Corrections and Conditional Release Act (Canada) and the Parole Act of British Columbia.

The purpose of conditional release is to contribute to the maintenance of a just, peaceful and safe society. Board members make decisions on the timing and conditions of release that will best help the rehabilitation and reintegration of individuals into the community as law-abiding citizens

STRATEGIC PLAN

The purpose of the strategic plan is to identify objectives or goals the Board aims to accomplish within the next four years and the strategies to be pursued in reaching those objectives. Section 101 of the Corrections and Conditional Release Act documents six principles that guide parole Boards as they make conditional release decisions and these form the framework for our strategic plan objectives. These principles may be summarized as follows:

1. The protection of society is the paramount consideration

2. Parole Boards are to consider all available information from their criminal justice partners, other interested parties, the victim and the offender

3. The timely exchange of relevant information with criminal justice partners and communication of policies and programs to offenders, victims and the general public enhances effectiveness and openness

4. Parole Boards should make the least restrictive determination consistent with the protection of society

5. Parole Boards should adopt appropriate policies and training programs for members

6. Offenders must be provided with relevant information, reasons for decisions and access to the review of decisions to ensure a fair and understandable conditional release process

The Board of Parole for the Province of British Columbia fully endorses these principles as the framework for the five objectives and included action statements of the strategic plan.

The Board of Parole for the Province of British Columbia is committed to protecting society by effectively assessing risk, making informed release decisions and providing for the appropriate management of offenders through the reintegration process. In accordance with legislation and the principles of restorative justice, we strive to represent and be sensitive to a concept of community that includes offenders, the public, victims and other interested and concerned individuals. It is essential that we work with our partners in the criminal justice system to ensure that we receive the information required for independent decision making.

OBJECTIVES

Objective One – To foster excellence in Board practice

1.1 Ensure efficient and effective decision making practices that focus on the protection of society and reintegration of the offender into the community.

1.2 Provide opportunity for community input in Board decision making practice and policy.

1.3 Provide effective orientation, on-going training programs and a support structure to all Board members to ensure quality decision making, documentation practice and adherence to policy and procedure.

1.4 Provide staff with the necessary resources and training to support the Board.

1.5 Foster accountability for decisions and practices.

1.6 Promote community representation on the Board emphasizing geographic representation, cultural diversity, gender balance and a dynamic combination of age and experience.

Objective Two - To increase public confidence in and understanding of the parole process

2.1 Expand the Board's public education strategy to promote awareness of the parole process and the British Columbia Board of Parole.

2.2 Participate in community forums when the interests of the Board and community converge.

2.3 Keep the political and executive levels of government informed to enhance their understanding and support of parole and promote the work of a community based parole board.

2.4 Demonstrate Board openness and accountability by inviting observers and supporting and encouraging the participation of victims in the hearing process.

2.5 Increase cultural sensitivity in all Board processes by allowing, whenever possible, spiritual and traditional practices of diverse groups.

Objective Three - To advance the role of the Parole Board as an independent partner within the criminal justice system

3.1 Clearly communicate Board objectives and practices.

3.2 Promote productive relationships with all justice partners to facilitate creative problem solving and the development of quality standards.

3.3 Initiate and respond to opportunities for education and information sharing.

3.4 Represent and promote the interest of the Board in all related legislation and policy development.

Objective Four - To encourage the full participation of offenders in the Parole process

4.1 Work with Corrections Branch to develop strategies to increase offender confidence in the parole process.

4.2 Provide information material for distribution to offenders, victims and the general public.

4.3 Demonstrate a consistent, fair and just process.

4.4 Write decisions that provide guidance to offenders with respect to reintegration and reduced risk.

4.5 Set appropriate conditions that are the least restrictive and that are consistent with risk to the community and the needs of the offender.

Objective Five - To be a catalyst for innovation and change in the community and in the justice system

5.1 Conduct research that promotes a reasoned response to crime and community re-integration.

5.2 Challenge society's conventional beliefs and stereotypes of offenders and the criminal justice system.

5.3 Evaluate and support alternatives to incarceration.

5.4 Work with partners in pilot projects that facilitate the successful re-integration of offenders

BOARD MEMBERSHIP 2001/2002

The Board

The Board is an independent body of community members who are appointed by Order-in-Council to make parole decisions on Federal and Provincial offenders serving a sentence in a provincial institution. Board Members come from all walks of life and from a variety of cultural and ethnic backgrounds and are trained for their task. Board Members are recruited on their merits and must have demonstrated:

a true sense of responsibility and interest in community affairs proven through their activities and participation, a level of ability, experience and objectivity that is consistent with the task of independent decision making, an understanding of the serious impact of their decisions on both the parole applicant, the victim and the community and a general knowledge of the justice process.

Each member of the Board, other than the Chair, holds office for a term of four years and is not eligible for reappointment to the Board.

Major Responsibilities

The major responsibility of the BC Board of Parole is to determine whether or not to grant parole in accordance with legislated criteria. The Board also has the responsibility to:

- set conditions for parole and statutory release,
- authorize suspensions if a violation of parole or statutory release occurs, and
- maintain a close working relationship with the BC Corrections Branch who provide case preparation for hearings, case management and community supervision.

Membership

Irene Heese, Chair, retired June 15th, 2001. Tracey Thompson was appointed Vice-Chair and Acting Chair on July 19th, 2001.

The Board's Program Administrator, a long term office employee, left the Board through the Voluntary Departure Program offered by the Government of British Columbia.

Five Board Members completed their four year terms in fiscal year 2001/2002. These were:

1. Edward O'Donnell
2. Vera Bergman
3. Kenneth Edzerza
4. Jim Imrich
5. Stan Dyck

Four Board Members were appointed in fiscal year 2001/2002. These were:

1. Brian Cates: Brian is a retired High School principal and has participated in victim assistance initiatives

2. Robert Purgavie: Robert is a former Probation Manager and Justice of the Peace

3. Shaneen LeBlanc: Shaneen is a Registered Rehabilitative Professional and freelance photographer

4. Robert Wood: Robert involved in the Native community is a drug and alcohol counsellor and retired Royal Canadian Mounted Police officer

The current Board Members are:

June Barens: June is an administrator and foster parent with experience in special needs and high-risk youth

Donald Bell: Donald is the former Executive Director of the BC Board of Parole

Grace Brown: Grace is an independent business owner

Fae Chato-Manchuk: Fae is a Registered Nurse with experience in working with violent offenders and sex offenders

Lynne Connell: Lynne is a former National Parole Board member and citizenship judge

Ardyth Cooper: Ardyth is a student and former treaty negotiator

Gwenn Cutler: Gwen is a consultant and past administrator of a sexual assault counselling centre

Emile De Koninck: Emile is an educational psychologist and teacher

Kenneth Dercole: Ken is a registered psychologist and community college instructor

Alvin Dixon: Alvin is an aboriginal instructor and a past Executive Director for the Native Fishing Association

Barry Gelling: Barry is a family physician and methadone program specialist

MaryEllen Gillan: MaryEllen is a writer and former career federal civil servant

Curt Griffiths: Curt is a university professor and author

Neena Keram: Neena is active in the Indo-Canadian community and represents a move toward a youth voice on administrative boards

Baljinder Lidhar: Baljinder is an instructional associate at a university college

Lloyd McDames: Lloyd is a social worker and former probation officer

Shirley Mortimer: Shirley is a former probation officer and psychiatric nurse

Debbie Scarborough: Debbie is a transition house co-ordinator and former RCMP auxiliary constable and victim assistance co-ordinator

Tracey Thompson, Vice Chair: Tracey is a civil servant and former Royal Canadian Mounted Police officer. She was a Board Member for two years before being appointed Vice Chair and Acting Chair

Kenneth Thornicroft: Kenneth is an author, instructor and lawyer whose practice includes labour law, arbitration and dispute resolution

Nelson Tsui: Nelson is a lawyer and columnist for a Chinese community newspaper

THE PAROLE PROCESS

The Board receives its authority from the Corrections and Conditional Release Act (Canada) and the Parole Act of British Columbia.

The Corrections and Conditional Release Act criteria for granting parole is:

> the offender will not, by re-offending, present an undue risk to society before the expiration according to law of the sentence the offender is serving; and
>
> the release of the offender will contribute to the protection of society by facilitating the reintegration of the offender into society as a law-abiding citizen.

Eligibility

Inmates are eligible to apply for day parole at one-sixth of their sentence and full parole at one third of their sentence and at any time thereafter. The Board also conducts statutory release hearings and detention hearings for federally sentenced inmates serving their sentences in provincial institutions. Inmates are eligible for statutory release at two-thirds of their sentences.

The Application

An inmate who wishes to be considered for parole must submit an application to the Board. Institutional staff assist the inmate in developing a release plan for community re-entry.

The Community Services Division of the Corrections Branch investigates the content of the application and prepares an assessment of the applicant's plan.

The inmate's institution also prepares a report that evaluates the applicant's participation in programs and progress while incarcerated. Relevant medical and psychological assessments are included in the parole package.

Information relating to the applicant's current conviction, criminal history and driving history are also included in the parole package along with the remarks of the sentencing judge and victim impact statements when submitted.

The applicant may obtain letters of support and is able to invite family, friends or a lawyer to assist him or her in the parole hearing.

All applications that are presented to the Board for decision making are accompanied by standardized and verified risk/needs assessments. These assessments identify areas of risk and individual needs and are instrumental in setting release conditions.

The Hearing

Parole hearings usually take place in provincial correctional centres and are usually conducted by two Board Members. One member reviews are reserved for administrative changes to existing orders and to hearings where there is a likely decision to grant parole based on a positive community assessment and positive institutional assessment. A detention hearing, in which the Board of Parole considers the detention of certain federally sentenced offenders past their statutory release date, takes place before a quorum of three members.

The applicant may be questioned before the Board about his/her criminal history, behaviour in custody, participation in programs, addiction history, offence patterns and release plan. The applicant may have an assistant to provide support throughout the hearing and to speak on his or her behalf at a specified point in the hearing.

On occasion, an observer may be present at a hearing. Observers may be victims of crime, members of the inmate's family, media representatives or other members of the public including special interest groups and academic researchers. The Board supports the Minister's Restorative Justice Initiatives. In keeping with one aspect of Restorative Justice, victims have been afforded the opportunity to not only attend hearings as observers but to participate in the hearing through audio or video taped statements as well as written and oral statements.

Normally, the Board in Session will ask the inmate to leave the room while the Members deliberate. Each member of the Board in Session casts an independent vote. The decision is based on consensus. When consensus cannot be reached, the Chair assigns three other Board Members to conduct a new hearing. The decision and the reasons for the decision are given to the inmate in writing.

Should the Board decide to grant parole; conditions of residence, mobility, participation in treatment and reporting are included in the parole certificate issued by the Board. Violations of conditions that indicate increased risk to the community may result in the suspension of parole, return to custody and the subsequent revocation of the parole. A review may also determine an offender's suitability for return to the community with a change of conditions.

Decision Registry

The signed and dated hearing decision and reasons, the panel hearing schedule and the Certificate of Parole for grants are the official record of the hearing. Original copies of all these documents are on the official Board file and form the Decision Registry.

The registry provides opportunity for persons who show an interest in a specific case to get Board decisions relating to that case.

Suspension and Revocation

The Board provides a 24-hour suspension service through Board Members who have agreed to be available to police and justice workers to respond to violations that indicate increased risk to the safety of the community.

Appeals

Under current legislation there is no appeal of the Board's decisions to an outside court, tribunal or other body.

However, an inmate may apply for re-examination of a Board decision by writing to the Chair within thirty days of the decision.

Grounds for re-examination are as follows:

> Where it can be proved that the board acted beyond its jurisdiction or refused to exercise its jurisdiction.
>
> Where it can be proved that the Board failed to observe prescribes procedures, policies or otherwise erred in law in making its decision.
>
> Where it can be proved that the Board made its decision based on false information or was lacking significant evidence or overlooked other relevant

material concerning the merits of the case.

OMBUDSMAN

The Board is in the schedule of agencies that are investigated by the Ombudsman where there is a compliant. Such an enquiry, where launched, will focus on whether the board acted consistently with governing legislation, regulations or stated policies and procedures. The ombudsman may make recommendations for remedy and it is the responsibility of the Board to act on those recommendations.

OPERATIONS AND STATISTICS

Diagram 1
Decisions

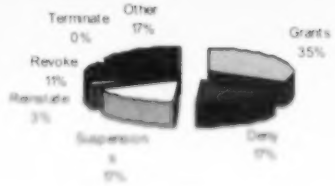

Diagram 2
Grant vs Deny

Diagram 3
Grants vs Suspensions

Diagram 4
Re-instatement vs Revocation

In Fiscal Year 2001/2002, the Board made 1783 decisions related to the conditional release of offenders. Of these, 352 or 20% were administrative decisions and did not involve a hearing with an offender.

300 offenders were denied an opportunity of conditional release. These decisions accounted for 17% of the Board's decision making.

Trends

In Fiscal Year 2000-2001 the Corrections Branch released electronic monitoring to the judiciary for use in conditional sentences where curfew management was necessary. This had an immediate effect on institutional counts. Previously, all provincial parole boards in Canada had witnessed the erosion of their traditional caseloads through conditional sentencing and this option, which has enhanced risk management for the judiciary in conditional sentences, has further eroded the Board's traditional caseload.

	1998-1999	1999-2000	2000-2001	2001-2002
Average daily institutional sentenced count	1798	1718	1651	1432
Average daily parole count	239	204	249	262
Total decisions	1827	1359	1724	1783
-granted	614	493	582	583
-denied	373	254	291	300
-suspended	325	236	278	294
-reinstated	82	65	74	59
-revoked	197	147	182	195
-Other decisions	236	164	317	352

In Fiscal Year 1998-1999 there were fifteen provincial facilities with an average daily sentenced offender count of 1798. The average daily parole count was 239. In Fiscal Year 1999-2000 there were thirteen provincial facilities with an average daily sentenced offender count of 1718. The average daily parole count was 204. In Fiscal Year 2000-2001 there were thirteen provincial facilities with an average daily sentenced offender count of 1651. The average daily parole count was 249. The increase in the parole count for this Fiscal Year is attributed to Corrections Branch ending the temporary absence program.

In Fiscal Year 2001-2002 the average daily sentenced offender count was 1432. The average daily parole count was 263.

Accurate suspension and revocation rates cannot be reported as offenders may be granted parole in a previous fiscal year and be suspended in another. Nevertheless, the Board can report on suspensions as a total of workload. The percentage of time spent on suspending offenders is holding steady at between 20-22%. In Fiscal Year 2001-2002 the Board revoked the paroles of 195 offenders which accounted for 11% of the total workload.

In Fiscal Year 2000-2001 the Board made 78 decisions on federal female offenders that resulted in 37 grant decisions. In Fiscal Year 2001-2002 the Board made 98 decisions on federal female offenders that resulted in 98 grant decisions.

Federal Female Offenders

	2000-2001	2001-2002
Total decisions	78	98
-Denied	5	9
-Granted	37	41
-Suspended	25	17
-Reinstated	4	6
-Revoked	16	11

Provincial Female Offenders

Total Decisions	106	83
-Denied	10	15
-Granted	54	44
-Suspended	23	11
-Reinstated	4	4
-Revoked	16	6

In Fiscal Year 2000-2001 the Board made 106 decisions on provincial female offenders that resulted in 54 grant decisions. In Fiscal Year 2001-2002 the Board made 83 decisions on provincial female offenders that resulted in 44 grant decisions.

Performance

Relative to a decreasing inmate sentenced population, the Board is maintaining a consistent grant rate and the numbers of reinstatements and revocations have also remained consistent relative to a lower average daily count.

TRAINING AND PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

The BC Board of Parole believes in the fundamental principle that training and professional development results in Board Members who are able to make reasoned and informed decisions on behalf of the community.

NEW BOARD MEMBERS: ON LINE TRAINING

This fiscal year saw for the first time, the use of online training for new Board Members. Two components were offered from the Employment Readiness Program at the Justice Institute of British Columbia: Introduction to the Criminal Justice System and the Parole and Other Conditional Releases module. These modules were developed primarily for potential Probation Officers but were found to be excellent cross training materials for new Board Members, resulting in time and cost savings for the Board.

FULL BOARD TRAINING

Each training session includes presentations and discussion of a number of standing items: criminogenic trends, community issues and interventions, victims, aboriginal issues and community involvement through education and public speaking.

The Spring training session for all Board Members was held in Richmond on April 2nd and 3rd, 2001. The emphasis on day one was a case analysis and decision writing workshop delivered by a Board Member who has expertise in that area. Day two involved a presentation on a specialized Corrections Branch facility for offenders with mental health problems by the Director of that facility and a general workshop on incarcerated mentally disordered offenders.

FULL BOARD TRAINING – FALL

The fall training session for all Board Members was again held in Richmond on November 5th and 6th, 2001. The emphasis on day one was two workshops on conflict of interest and bias in decision making. Day two included a presentation on the Administrative Justice Review, Corrections Branch and Parole statistics, Board Member job descriptions and appeals.

Program Highlights

ADMINISTRATIVE JUSTICE/CORE REVIEW

All Agencies, Boards and Commissions underwent review as a result of the Administrative Justice Project. This review examined service duplication, cost/benefit analysis of practice and procedure and whether or not other mechanisms are available to provide the tribunals service.

VICTIM INCLUSION IN PAROLE HEARINGS

The BC Board of Parole has welcomed victims since 1996 to participate in parole hearings.

ABORIGINAL RECOGNITION

Aboriginal offenders have been, historically, over-represented in provincial and federal institutions. The BC Board of Parole believes that the parole process must be inclusive and sensitive to aboriginal cultural and justice traditions. To assist in meeting this goal, the Board attempts to maintain a significant aboriginal presence on the Board.

FEMALE OFFENDERS

The Chair of the Board is a member of the Exchange of Services Advisory Committee as well as Joint Committee as a result of the Board's responsibility to provide a parole service to the provincial and female offenders at Burnaby Correctional Centre for Women. Both committees are mandated by the Exchange of Services Agreement between the Province and Government of Canada that sets out the parameters of service for federal female offenders incarcerated at Burnaby Correctional Centre for Women. The Exchange of Services Committee is a working committee dealing with front-line federal/provincial problems in the institution. It recommends solutions and initiatives to Joint Committee, the decision-making body.

PUBLIC EDUCATION

The Board has developed a number of information brochures: a program brochure for the general public, an information brochure for victims of crime and an application guide for offenders. These brochures can now be found on the Board's web site.

Board Members are encouraged to become involved in their communities and participate in justice forums and media interviews in an effort to place a human face on release decision making. Their participation is encouraged through a formal round-table that is set aside for reporting at every Board training session.

PARTNERSHIP

The BC Board of Parole enjoys a long history of co-operation with the British Columbia Corrections Branch, Corrections Service Canada and the National Parole Board. Other partners include Victim Services Branch (British Columbia) and Information and Privacy Branch (British Columbia).

CORNET

In an effort to develop a Management Information System, the Board entered into an exploration of parole reporting deficiencies within the electronic offender information system maintained by Corrections Branch. A foundation was laid for the future identification of programming errors, structural issues and potential solutions.

WEB SITE

In this Fiscal Year, the Board received approval and funding to develop a Web Site to facilitate public education. The Web Site, http://www.gov.bc.ca/bcparole/, is an invaluable resource for the public, media, students and Board Members. It has resulted in a reduction of printed material and erroneous beliefs about the parole process.

INTRANET FORMS

Within the Web Site, Corrections Branch and Parole Board staff are able to access online Parole Board forms. This has resulted in enhanced consistency and therefore fewer errors in the preparation of offenders for parole and management of the parole process.

National and International Involvement

CANADIAN ASSOCIATION OF PAROLING AUTHORITIES

The British Columbia Board of Parole is a member of the Canadian Association of Paroling Authorities. Membership consists of the four Canadian paroling authorities: the National Parole Board of Canada, the British Columbia Board of Parole, the Quebec Board of Parole and the Ontario Board of Parole. The Association meets two times per year to review legislative issues, policy, trends and other issues particular to parole nationally and provincially.

Spring Meeting

The four authorities share the hosting of CAPA meetings and, as it fell to the National Parole Board to host, the Spring meeting was held in Halifax, Nova Scotia in conjunction with the Canadian Criminal Justice Association Congress 2001. Standing items on the CAPA agenda include; victims' issues, aboriginal issues, Corrections and Conditional Release Act and other legal issues and Chairs' reports. Additional meeting topics included: media attendance procedures for parole hearings, day parole to full parole process, electronic monitoring, board cost pressures and impact of conditional sentencing.

Fall Meeting

The Fall meeting of the Association was hosted by the BC Board of Parole and took place in Vancouver British Columbia. Topics, after standing items, included: a discussion of the selection process for Board Members, the Transfer of Parole Jurisdiction protocol and the pardon process managed by the National Parole Board. The focus of the meeting was restorative justice and the Association was guided by David Gustafson and Sandi Bergen (Community Justice Initiative Association) in a discussion of principles and strategies for parole boards within a restorative justice framework.

ASSOCIATION OF PAROLING AUTHORITIES INTERNATIONAL

The Board is a member of the Association of Paroling Authorities International. The Association is the recognized voice for the highest professional standards of responsible parole practices. APAI demonstrates, through established values, that the parole process of the criminal justice system is an essential element for making societies safer and better places to live.

The Association sponsors an annual international conference.

BUDGET

The Board is responsible for an annual budget of 621,000. Of this total, 316,815 is dedicated to Board Member hearing expenses and the remainder is allocated to office support and operations.